



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/634,283	08/05/2003	Wai Cheung	889712-30	7086
26797	7590	10/17/2005	EXAMINER	
SILICON VALLEY PATENT AGENCY			LE, UYEN CHAU N	
7394 WILDFLOWER WAY			ART UNIT	
CUPERTINO, CA 95014			PAPER NUMBER	
			2876	

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 2876

DETAILED ACTION

Prelim. Amdt/Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed 26 September 2005.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Re claim 1, line 12: Substitute "the top board" with - the top border --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a),

Art Unit: 2876

the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-2 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopresti et al (US 5,862,270) in view of Wilson (US 3632995 A).

Re claims 1-2 and 11-15: Lopresti et al discloses a method for encoding a 2D symbol, the method comprising converting binary data into a first bit-stream of codeword data; calculating a set of error correction code-words from the first bit-stream based on a predefined error correction level; combining the first bit-stream and the set of error correction code words into a second bit-stream of codeword data; dividing the second bit-stream into a set of equally sized data segments; adding a set of control information code words into each of the data segments; adding a data segment divider between the data segments; providing a top border and a bottom border, a left

Art Unit: 2876

border and a right border circumscribing the data segments such that the 2D symbol is so created; re-arranging at least two of the second bit-stream in an interleaved order (figs. 3-6; col. 6, line 29 through col. 8, line 64).

Lopresti et al is silent with respect to the top border includes at least one start code pattern and only one terminator code pattern, the start code pattern is repeated enough times to accommodate all of the data segments.

Wilson teaches the top border having the start bar 60 and the end bar 58 (fig. 1) wherein the start bars may be repeated in one or more positions as indicated by the dotted lines 60a, 60b, 60c, 60d, and 60e in (FIG. 12; col. 10, lines 10-56).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the repeating start bars/patterns of Wilson into the system as taught by Lopresti et al in order to provide Lopresti et al with a more accurate system wherein due to the repeated start codes, the reader continuously and sequentially reading each and every one of data segments encoded within the symbol until all data segments are read (i.e., until the last start code is detected), thus preventing data from being "skipped" or "not read".

6. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopresti et al as modified by Wilson as

Art Unit: 2876

applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Reichenbach (US 20030009725). The teachings of Lopresti et al as modified by Wilson have been discussed above.

Re claim 3: Lopresti et al/Wilson has been discussed above but is silent with respect to a masking operation on the second bit-stream with a predefined mask to avoid the bars concentrated in a particular area.

Reichenbach teaches a masking operation to mask to correct data defective bits (p. 1, paragraph [0002]).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the masking operation of Reichenbach into the system of Lopresti et al/Wilson in order to provide Lopresti et al/Wilson with a capability to correct data defective bits/bars concentration, thus provide a more accurate system and therefore an obvious expedient.

7. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopresti et al as modified by Wilson as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Klancnik et al (US 5329105 A). The teachings of Lopresti et al as modified by Wilson have been discussed above.

Re claims 4-5: Lopresti et al/Wilson has been discussed above but is silent with respect to the top border includes at

Art Unit: 2876

least one start code pattern and one terminator code pattern, and the bottom border includes at least one end code pattern and one terminator code pattern to facilitate detection of an orientation of the 2D symbol.

Klancnik et al teaches a 2D barcode 1002 includes a start and a stop patterns having terminator code patterns (fig. 10; col. 19, lines 2-45).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the start and stop patterns including terminator code patterns of Klancnik et al into the system as taught by Lopresti et al/Wilson in order to provide Lopresti et al/Wilson with a more accurate system wherein the data can be obtained from the exact location of the data field (i.e., between the start code and the stop code), preventing the data from being read from a wrong coded area, and therefore an obvious expedient.

8. Claims 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopresti et al as modified by Wilson as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sant'Anselmo et al (US 5,612,524). The teachings of Lopresti et al as modified by Wilson have been discussed above.

Re claims 6-10: Lopresti et al/Wilson has been discussed above but is silent with respect to the left border and the

Art Unit: 2876

right border are a pair of identical positioning blocks including alternating bars and spaces according to a predefined pattern.

Sant'Anselmo et al teaches a data area of a 2D barcode 10 is circumscribed by the top, bottom, left and right borders (figs. 6-7).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the left and right borders including positioning blocks of Sant'Anselmo et al into the system as taught by Lopresti et al/Wilson in order to provide Lopresti et al/Wilson with a more accurate and time consuming system wherein an exact orientation of the code can be determined readily upon detection of the code's borders, and therefore an obvious expedient.

9. Claims 16-17, 26-27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang (US 5,477,042) in view of Sant'Anselmo et al and Wilson. The teachings of Sant'Anselmo et al and Wilson al have been discussed above.

Re claims 16-17, 26-27 and 29: Wang discloses a method for decoding a 2D symbol including a plurality of bars and spaces in a data area representing a bit-stream of codeword from a binary data file, the data area circumscribed by a top border, a bottom border, a plurality of data segment divider dividing the bit-

Art Unit: 2876

stream data area into a plurality of data segments, the method comprising scanning the 2D symbol in entirety to produce a stored image; searching in the stored image for the top border having a start code pattern and the bottom border having an end code pattern; determining a horizontal axis and a vertical axis of the symbol image based on the start code pattern and the end code pattern; calculating a scan line angle between a scan line and the horizontal axis of the stored image; determining a print resolution from the stored image; locating the plurality of data segment dividers in the stored image; retrieving a set of control information from the data segments; and converting the bit-stream of code word data into original binary data file (figs. 3-8; col. 5, line 4 through col. 10, line 39).

Wang is silent with respect to a left border and a right border circumscribed the data area with the top border and the bottom border, wherein the left border and the right border are a pair of identical positioning blocks including alternating bars and spaces according to a predefined pattern, respectively.

Sant'Anselmo et al teaches a data area of a 2D barcode 10 is circumscribed by the top, bottom, left and right borders (figs. 6-7).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the

Art Unit: 2876

left and right borders including positioning blocks of Sant'Anselmo et al into the system as taught by Wang in order to provide Wang with a more accurate and time consuming system wherein an exact orientation of the code can be determined readily upon detection of the code's borders, and therefore an obvious expedient.

Wang as modified by Sant'Anselmo et al is silent with respect to the top border includes at least one start code pattern and only one terminator code pattern, the start code pattern is repeated enough times to accommodate all of the data segments.

Wilson teaches the top border having the start bar 60 and the end bar 58 (fig. 1) wherein the start bars may be repeated in one or more positions as indicated by the dotted lines 60a, 60b, 60c, 60d, and 60e in (FIG. 12; col. 10, lines 10-56).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the repeating start bars/patterns of Wilson into the system as taught by Wang/Sant'Anselmo et al in order to provide Wang/Sant'Anselmo et al with a more accurate system wherein due to the repeated start codes, the reader continuously and sequentially reading each and every one of data segments encoded within the symbol until all data segments are read (i.e., until

Art Unit: 2876

the last start code is detected), thus preventing data from being "skipped" or "not read".

10. Claims 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang as modified by Sant'Anselmo et al and Wilson as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Reichenbach (US 20030009725). The teachings of Wang as modified by Sant'Anselmo et al and Wilson have been discussed above.

Re claims 18-21: Wang/Sant'Anselmo et al/Wilson has been discussed above but is silent with respect to a masking operation on the second bit-stream with a predefined mask to avoid the bars concentrated in a particular area.

Reichenbach teaches a masking operation to mask to correct data defective bits (p. 1, paragraph [0002]).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the masking operation of Reichenbach into the system of Wang in order to provide Wang/Sant'Anselmo et al/Wilson with a capability to correct data defective bits/bars concentration, thus provide a more accurate system and therefore an obvious expedient.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 22-25 are allowed.

Art Unit: 2876

12. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of records to Lopresti et al, Klancnik et al, Sant'Anselmo et al, Wang, Reichenbach, Wilson and all other cited references, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific structure or the method for decoding a 2D symbol including a plurality of bars and spaces in a data area representing a bit-stream of codeword data from a binary data file, the data are circumscribed by a top border, a bottom border, a left other, and a right border, a plurality of data segment dividers dividing the bit-stream data area into a plurality of data segments, the method comprising, among other things, switching to the decoding method for the graphic symbol image in entirety if the first data segment is out of sequence, or the bit-stream data area in the first data segment is stored in an interleaved order, retrieving the plurality of codeword information in the bit-stream data area using the coordinates of the data elements in the current data segment, restoring a first part of the first bit-stream of codeword data for the current data segment as set forth in the claims combination.

13. Claim 28 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent

Art Unit: 2876

form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

14. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of records to Lopresti et al, Klancnik et al, Sant'Anselmo et al, Wang, Reichenbach, Wilson and all other cited references, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific structure or the method of a 2D symbol embedding information readable by a scanning device to recover the information comprising, among other things, the start code pattern of the top border and the end code pattern of the bottom border includes eight alternated bars and spaces, the start code pattern has width ratio of 3:2:1:1:1:2:2:3 modules and the end code pattern has width ratio of 3:1:2:3:2:2:1:1 modules as set forth in the claims combination.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 and 26-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Newly cited reference to Wilson has been used in the new ground of rejections to further meet the newly amended

Art Unit: 2876

limitation of the claimed invention (i.e., the repeated start code).

Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The patents to Uemura et al (US 4999617 A) and Kim et al (US 20020036704 A1) are cited as of interest and illustrate a similar structure to methods and systems for encoding and decoding data in 2D symbology.

17. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated

Art Unit: 2876

from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen-Chau N. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2397. The examiner can normally be reached on First Monday 5:30AM-1:30PM and Tues-Fri 5:30AM-3PM.

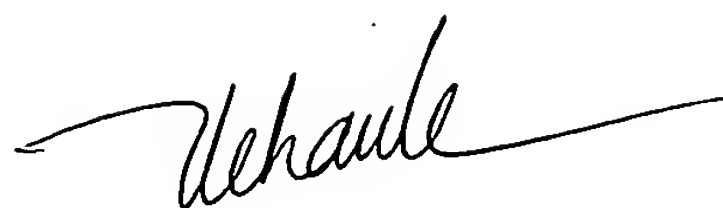
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/634,283

Page 15

Art Unit: 2876

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vyên-Chau N. Le', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vyên-Chau N. Le

Examiner

AU 2876

October 5, 2005